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#### BROBITED

# THE YELLOW SHEELS

Vol. 2, No. 3. March-April, 1946 Laura D. Cole, Grannis, Ark., Editor

In spite of the weather, the flood of Christmas greetings and best wishes which came to me after copy for last issue had been sent out, made this past Christmas a very happy one for me. Am not physically able to answer each one personally, rheumatism and the after affects of my series of falls sharply limit my writing, but one and all, I thank you.

Usually our winter does not begin until last week of December, but this time, our coldest spell of the winter came in mid-December. We have applied for Butane gas for heating, but must wait until the politicians and racketeers permit delivery of the needed underground tanks. In the meantime, we have to depend upon wood and that night, the wood stove was not good enough.

My loss from the blizzard was heavy, mainly in young stock of shipping size. Over ninety percent of my Chinese Temples, (Kalanchoe daigermontiana) of shipping age were killed outright; same true of the Frog Leg Cactus (Kalanchoe tubiflora), but curiously, the mother plants of both, and the baby seedlings, less than an inch tall, were only slightly hurt.

Jade Plant (Crassula arborescens) and Reurnia beguinea both killed outright. Heurnia schneedrania hurt but may live. Both kinds of Pedilanthus the green leaf (Red Bird Cactus) and the variegated lost all their leaves. Tops of some killed, but I think most will put up later. Cannot sell any yet, since leaves put out, am not sure which is which.

Elephant Bush (Portulacaria afra) lost all its leaves but does not seem to be killed Young leaves beginning to show. Kalanchoe fedschenkoi has me puzzled. Blooms on all nipped. Some lost their leaves and some did not. I cannot see what made the difference. Those that kept their leaves now in full bud.

I did have three varieties of Sansevera, the common, the dwarf and the gold banded. Not sure I have any now. Time will tell. Last summer I bought a young plant of the red bordered Sansevera. Paid 50c for plant and 6c postage. Plant was little more than a knob from the root. Under same care as the other kinds, it promptly died. I am not enthusiastic over that deal.

Before this issue reaches the readers, a number of native plants desirable for cultivation, will be available. Viola rafinesque, the tiniest Viola of my acquaintance, is already up. Good in rock and dish gardens. Tiny, pale blue, Pansy-like, blooms in February and March. Makes seeds and then becomes dormant until next late winter. Well deserves more recognition.

Spring Beauty (Claytonia virginica) responds to protections from tramping, surprisingly. Found along roadsides where cattle trample it daily. Tuck it away somewhere it will be in peace (no cultivation needed) and the leaves will make a mat a foot across. Two bloom stalk and five blooms is heavy in the wild. One corm in a No. 3 can on a shelf back of the hen house has given me sixteen bloom stalk and nearly two hundred blooms in one season.

Houstonia courulia (only they are not all blue) is another dwarf well worth more notice. Have not seen any yet and too small for me to find them until the bloom. Set them in poor soil in full sun. They bloom, make seed and then become dormant until next spring.

Alumroot is a darling in a shady rock garden. Hardy to the Canadian border, but do not order until warm weather. Will have to get them from the No-Man's-Land west of Grannis. There are Timber Wolves in there. When weather is warm and rabbits plentiful, they are peacable; but every few years, driven by cold and hunger, they make some lone timber cruiser climb a tree. Being a great-grandmother, I am too old to shinny up a tree or pack a gun. Hence no Alumroot until warm weather.

Blue and gold Iris cristate will be ready in March and fine for shady rock gardens. Found east of Grannis, hence can get it early. The amethyst colored is out with the Alumroct.

I have several surplus small plants of an African wildling which I cannot yet identify. Looks like a Bryophyllum but is more hardy and does not propogate like one. Lost only a few leaves from the blizzard. 10c each.

Curiously, my Beefsteak Begonia, and all but one plant of my common Semperflorens Begonias were killed, while a big leaf—one which I cannot identify—was only slightly hurt. Not one of the evansianas, I am sure.

Echeveria gibbiflora, unhurt. Hardy in Texarkana, fifty miles south of Grannis. Entire top of Aloe daviana killed, but coming up nicely from the roots.

### HARDY ROCK GARDEN PLANTS

HARDY SEDUMS. All Sedums I call hardy can survive 15 below zero without protection. Some of them are hardy in the sub-Arctic. Most are fine for rock garden plants. Last year my Sempervivums made almost no increase. This year most are "hatching" chicks, and when my backlog of orders left from last year are filled, I hope to have a number of varieties of hardy Semps to offer. There is a rock garden plant par excellence. Most of the dwarf plants listed under other heads, and many of the wildlings, are also good for rock gardens.

I have wholesale quantities of the following Sedums: Sarmentosum. hardy to subarctic, pendant effect. One sent me Glaucum, much like album, but different flowers and winter coloring: Album white flowers: evergreen with us, an album bybrid has never bloomed for me, color of foliage slightly different, a grey green one which I think is altissum, good in rock garden, dish garden or as a pot plant: Acre and Sexanfulare much alike but different, both dwarf and good ground cover for clayey spots; Maximoiczi, little known in U.S.A.—two varieties which are in dispute among the botanists who have seen them. The dealer from whom I bought them identified them as the rare pink-flowered Stoloneferum, and No. 28 as Stoloneferum coccinea; and the faculty of our State Experiment Station at Hope. Ark., agrees with him. Other botanists just as well posted say that both are unusual Spurium hybrids.

Have from one to a dozen plants of other varieties. Will trade, plant for plant, any Sedum listed for starts of red, purple or variegated Spectibile.

Have had all three and put them out in the yard where Bermuda grass killed them.

Any Sedum listed, labeled to the

best of my knowledge, 5c.

Seven well-rooted, small clumps, all different, labeled to the best of my knowledge, 25c, postpaid.

If selection is left to me, 50 well-rooted Sedums, 10 varieties labeled,

\$1.00.

If unlabeled, 1c each in lot of 25.

Hemerocalis Kwansi, 5c.

CONFEDERATE VIOLETS, grey effect, thrive in poor soil and can stand more sun than others.

WHITE VIOLETS, force easily for late winter blooming IF you can keep mice away from the tiny buds.

Wooly Violets, dwarf, very early.

Full sun and poor soil.

A red Violet, mid season. Needs moderate shade.

Birdsfoot Violet, dwarf, very early.

Full sun and poor soil.

Wood Sorrell (wild Oxalis) attractive, edible foliage, early flowering, very hardy.

Viola rafinesque, very dwarf, fine for rock and dish gardens. 10c per

doz.

Spring Beauty (Claytonia virginica) early bloomer, responds to cultivation, best of any wildling of my acquaintance. Full sun or half shade.

Bluets (Houstonia coerula) Lut they are of several colors. Very dwarf and

very hardy. 10c per doz.

Blue and gold Iris cristata. Needs

some shade. Will soon be up.

Amethyst Iris cristata, needs same conditions as the other, but is especially good for wall gardens.

Virginia Creeper, well known vine.

Deep red in fall.

Five Fingers (Potentilla) small vine with some medicinal value. Found growing among rocks. Blooms in early summer.

Christmas Fern,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ft. tall. Green through the winter with us, becoming shabby in the spring. Needs shade. Good for base plantings on north side

of house. Very hardy.

Ebony Spleenwort Fern, also green through winter, and unsightly in the spring. About 18 in. tall. Very hardy. Can stand more sun than the Christmas Fern, and often found growing in cracks of rocks and among roots of hardwood trees.

Blunt Lobed Woodsia Fern, often found growing with the Ebony Spleenwort. Same conditions. Dies

down in winter.

Occasionally find three varieties of Botrychiums; the Virginia Grape and the Ternate Grape Fern, and a third, still later which, so far, have not been able to identify. They are very rare here and I cannot promise positively to find one.

The above is true of the Ressurection Fern (Polypodium polypody). No wonder it is very dwarf, with such a name.

Lady Ferns. These grow quite tall. Die down in winter. Said to be able to thrive in considerable drouth, but I find them near water.

Braken, the dry land Fern. Needs a

little shade.

Wood Betony (Betonia). Good ground cover for deep shade. Fern-like leaves, deep red when the first come through. Yellow blooms, good stems for cutting.

Red Tradescantia, so called from the winter color of the leaves. Mother plants I brought in from clay bank hillsides, light shade, had deep maroon but only the Lord colored flowers: Himself knows what color they will be in your garden. Anything from bluish white through all the shades of blue and purple to deep maroon, will be entirely normal. One of the native Spiderworts. Very hardy.

I hope to have three varieties of ornamental Pepper plants in season.

Birds Eye, hotter than hot. Good substitute for Tobasco.

Bouquet, small fruits, first green, then cream, then lavender and finally red. All colors on bush at same time. Too hot for me.

Squash Pepper, looks like a little yellow Patty Pan Squash. Same garden effect as a Giant yellow Marigold. Still too hot for me.

Am planting a variety of seeds and will be able to tell you more about them later.

#### HARDY CACTI-10c EACH

OPUNTIA VULGARE (Common Prickly Pear) hardy, flower creamy yellow, fruit edible. Can be used as pot plant. Thrives in poor soil.

OPUNTIA VASEYI, hardy on the Colorado desert.

OPUNTIA ROBUSTA, stately lawn

plant, hardy here to 15 below.

OPUNTIA RAMOSISSIMA, hardy and dwarf, good in full sun in rock gardens, also good as pot plant.

An almost spineless Opuntia found here in only one spot that I know of.

May be Beaver Tail.

Any of the above plants 5c each, unless otherwise noted.

#### HOUSE PLANTS

Common Green Leaf Wandering Jew, 5c.

Large Green Leaf Wandering Jew. Purple and grey-striped Wandering Jew. 5c.

Peanut Cactus (Chamecerous Syl-

vestris), 10c.

Optunia Vilyi (dwarf tender), 10c. Optunia, either elata or subelata, not sure which, 10c.

Cactus Echinopsis, 10c.

(When the babies are big enough). Red Bird Cactus (Green Pedilanthus), 10c.

Variegated Pedilanthus, 10c.

Talinums, 5c each.

Chinese Temple (Kalanchoe Daigermontiana), 10c.

Kalanchoe Fedschenkoi, 10c.

Billbergia Nutans, 10c.

Unless otherwise stated, all plants whose prices are not given, are 5c each. Postage paid on orders of 50c or more. For less than that amount. please add 5c.

Until income is bigger, the Yellow Sheets will be published bi-monthly; and until my cubs are home from the war, more attention will be paid to unusual plants, many from other lands. than to our wildings.

TO SWAP-Hardy white, fall blooming Crocus, or other hardy plants and bulbs, especially Tulips and Scillas. Mrs. J. D. Cook, Whip-O-Will Hill, Rt. 1, Box 490, Texarkana, Ark.

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And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considereth not the beam that is in thine

eye? Matt. 7: 3.

If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church. I Cor. 6: 4.

In the above, Jesus lays the foundation, and St. Paul prescribes the method for settling our mundane troubles. First, make sure that we ourselves are absolutely without fault in the matter, then lay the facts before the church.

A great responsibility is thus thrown on the church: First, not to be guilty of the besetting sin of most churches—an emotional jag labeled Christian duty. Second calm, impartial fact finding for both sides. And lastly, an informed public opinion in the church, regarding the individuals concerned from the standpoint of the New Testament rules.

Some may say "It won't work." The forces of evil will deride it, but most of us really old folks have seen it work in the local churches before the railroad went through.

Some women walking along the road, were outraged at the language of one of the brethren. It came out

that at the time, he was plowing in new ground. I moved that we regard the fact as extenuating circumstance and drop the charge. The plaintiffs joined in the laugh and a neighborhood feud was avoided.

A widow with four husky girls and a small boy needed groceries. The girls were willing to work to pay for them. Five minutes tracing among

farmers, and it was arranged on we se credit she would get the goods, and for whom the girls would work.

Case after case was settled, and the cash saving to the county was enormous. With the complex life of today and the vastness of the matters involved, the churches must streamline their organizations and pay more attention to the plain directives of the Bible, than to doctrines. For on the church rests the responsibility for developing enlightened public opinion on the God-demanded model.

One of my readers was kind enough to write me that the Hen and Chicken Cactus is Sempervivum Tectorum. I sincerely thank her but have not been well enough to write to her personally. Too near to a bout with pneumonia, make any exertion which could well mitted.

I will be glad if some one who has had experience with Crassula lycopoides, Miniature Joshua Tree (Sedum Gaudalmaeensis) and Sedum Daisyphyllum will write me about the needs of those plants. Are they lime lovers? The two Sedums eventually die for me, and the Crassula lives but does not thrive.

